THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.
Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 22. SATURDAY, AUGUST 14TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

Donations to be sent to Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Sec., Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

MEETINGS LIST, Aug. 13—22.

Friday, Aug. 13th.

Charles St. & Exmouth St., Limehouse, 8 p.m., Miss Pankhurst, Miss Manicom.
Salmon Lane, 9 p.m., Miss Pankhurst, Miss Manicom.
Upper North St. & Grundy St., 9.30 p.m., Miss Pankhurst, Miss Manicom
Beckton Rd., 8 p.m., Mr. Mackinlay.
Ford Rd., 8 p.m., Miss Feek, Mrs. Drake.
Clock Tower, Burdett Rd., 9 p.m., Miss Feek, Mrs. Drake.
"Salmon and Ball," 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Hague St., 8.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Custom House, 5 p.m., Miss Lynch.
St. Leonard's St., 8 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss O'Callaghan.
Abbott Rd. & Brunswick Rd., 9 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss O'Callaghan.

Saturday, Aug. 14th.

Lefevre Rd. & Roman Rd., 8 p.m., Miss Pankhurst, Miss O'Callaghan.
St. Stephen's Rd., 8.30 p.m., Miss Pankhurst, Miss O'Callaghan.
Morpeth St., 9 p.m., Miss Pankhurst, Miss O'Callaghan.
Gibraltar Walk, 9.30 p.m., Miss Pankhurst, Miss O'Callaghan.
Rathbone St., 8 p.m., Mr. Lynch, Miss Manicom.
"Boleyn," 9 p.m., Mr. Lynch, Miss Manicom.
Dock Gates, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Chrisp St. & Grundy St., 8.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Devonshire St. & Cambridge Rd., 3 p.m., Miss Lynch.
Osborn St. & Whitechapel Rd., 4 p.m., Miss Lynch.

Sunday, Aug. 15th.

Queen's Hall Demonstration, Doors open 5 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 16th.

Lesbia Rd., 8 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
"Peacock," 8 p.m., Miss Lynch.
Dock Gates, 8 p.m., Mrs. Drake.

Tuesday, Aug. 17th.

Salmon Lane, 8 p.m., Miss Lynch.
Poplar Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Mrs. Tyson, Mrs. Drake.

Wednesday, Aug. 18th.

Chrisp St., 8 p.m., Mrs. Drake.
Ford Rd., 8 p.m., Mrs. Duval.

Thursday, Aug. 19th.

175 Dalston Lane, 8 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
124 Barking Rd., 8 p.m.
53 St. Leonard's St., 8 p.m., Mrs. Schlette.

Friday, Aug. 20th.

Piggott St., 8 p.m., Miss Lynch.
Beckton Rd., 8 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. Thomson.

Sunday, Aug. 22nd.

Victoria Park, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier and others.

HELP TO PAY FOR THE DEMONSTRATION!

We wish to remind our friends that the Demonstration on Sunday 15th, is on such a large scale, that we are put to great expense. Its objects have been approved by so many societies and people, that we feel that nothing should be spared to make it a success.

Therefore we call on all who support the objects of the Demonstration to help us to defray the costs and to remember that every little helps. Those who are in sympathy and cannot be present, can at least send a contribution. Those who come to the meeting should remember that a collection will be taken.

Keep up the Demand!
No Registration without safeguards!
Down with Sweating!
If a woman does a man's job, she must have a man's pay!
Down with High Prices and Big Profits!
Wages and Prices must rise together!
Votes for Working Women!

Great JOINT DEMONSTRATION

ON

Registration Sunday, August 15th.

PROCESSIONS from EAST & WEST

TO

QUEEN'S HALL, Langham Place.

SOCIETIES JOINING—

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes, United Suffragists, Forward Cymric Suffrage Union, Women Writers' Suffrage League, Herald League, B.S.P., The Dockers' Union, and branches of the I.L.P., Amalgamated Toolmakers, Engineers and Machinists, Electrical Trade Union, National Union of Railwaymen, and others.

East London Procession.

BOW.—Form up 2 p.m. at Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road. March 3 sharp, via Old Ford Road, Roman Road, Green Street, Cambridge Heath Road, Mile End Road, Whitechapel Road to—Gardiner's corner.

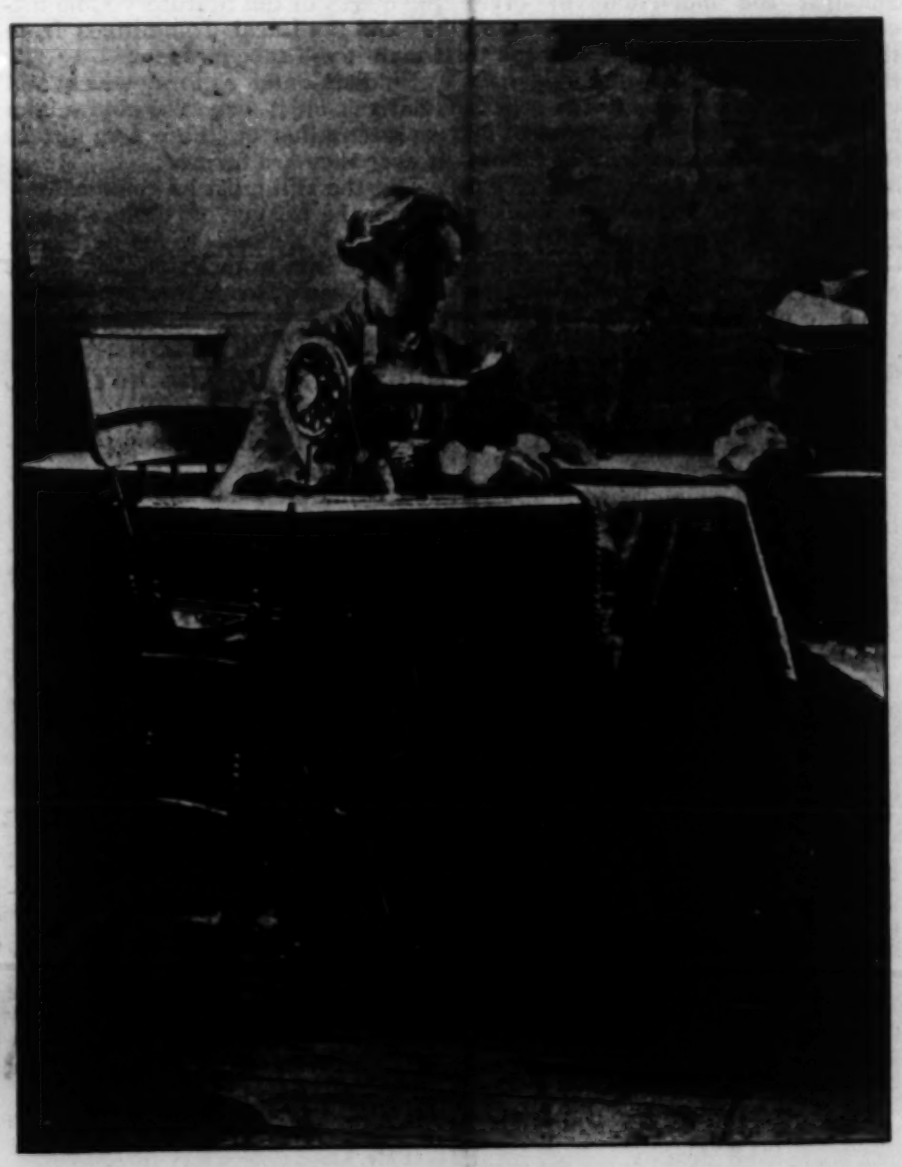
POPLAR.—Form up at 2 p.m. at East India Dock Gates. March 3 sharp, via Commercial Road to—Gardiner's corner.

March via Leadenhall Street, Cornhill, Cheapside, Holborn, Oxford Street, to Queen's Hall.

South-East London Procession.

Form up 3 p.m., Asylum Road. March 3.30, via Old Kent Road, New Kent Road, St. George's Road, Westminster Bridge Road, Parliament Street, Charing Cross, Haymarket, Piccadilly Circus, Regent Street to

QUEEN'S HALL, doors open at 5 p.m.



4d. for "LUXURIES."

RESOLUTIONS to be moved at the great QUEEN'S HALL DEMONSTRATION.

That this meeting declares that the safeguards against undue exploitation of the workers, and especially of the working women, by private employers, which are contained in the Munitions Act, are wholly inadequate to justify the degree of coercion which may already be applied to the workers under the Munitions Act and the National Register Act, to say nothing of a more general and extended form of compulsory service; and that the Munitions Act does not bear out the promise made that armament manufacturers should not make increased war profits; and demands:—

(1) That women employed on War Service shall receive the same rates of pay, whether by time or piece, as the men whom they may replace, and that they shall in no case be employed on Government work, however unskilled, at a lower rate than 7d. an hour.

(2) That Government action shall be taken to keep down the cost of living, and that Government departments and Arbitration courts shall take the cost of living into consideration in fixing rates of wages.

(3) That women need the Vote to protect their homes and wages.

That in view of the deputation of bankers and others to the Prime Minister, putting forward various dangerously reactionary proposals, and in view of the composition of the Government committee on economy, which largely consists of those who formed part of that deputation;

This meeting protests:—

(1) Against any attempt to tax wages.

(2) Against any further taxation of the necessaries of life.

(3) Against any attempt to reduce expenditure on old age pensions, public health work, housing, or educational activities, and calls upon the Government to turn instead to the great landed and capitalist monopolies and the natural resources of the country, and thus obviate the need for further taxation of the people.

That this meeting, representing the Suffrage Societies, Trades Unions, and Working-class Political Organisations, calls upon all members to urge their Societies to take the necessary steps to bring pressure to bear upon the Government, in order that effect may be given to the Resolutions passed at this meeting.

That this meeting urges all women and girls to join the Unions connected with their respective industry, in order that instead of being a source of weakness they may promote the solidarity and strength of organised labour; also calls upon the great Trade Unions to accept these workers as members, and assist the work of organising women and girls by every means in their power.

We shall be very glad to receive the names of all friends who are willing to be banner bearers, DREADNOUGHT sellers or collectors, who must be at the starting point at two o'clock. Many more are needed. Will all those willing to act as stewards in the Queen's Hall write at once to Miss Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E., so that she may send them cards of admission and badges. Stewards must be at the Queen's Hall at 4.0 p.m. Chalking and canvassing on Friday and Saturday most important.

4d. for "LUXURIES."

Household budget of a widow with two children — she earns 15s. a week:—

	s.	d.
Rent (1 room)	3	6
Bread (7 loaves at 3½d.) ...	2	2½
Milk (1 tin condensed) ...		4
Sugar (2 lbs.)		6
Soap (½ bar)		3
Soda		1
Potatoes		9
Meat (Sunday only) ...	1	6
Tea (¼ lb.)	1	0
Margarine (1 lb.)		6
Vegetables		4
Coal (1 cwt.)	1	5
Gas		6
Matches		0½
Blue		0½
Insurance		3
Weekly hire of sewing machine	1	6
	14	8

Only 4d. left for clothes, etc. They have to go short of food when these are bought.

LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

For Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives.

EAST LONDON BRANCHES.

BOW BRANCH meets at the Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Rd., 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. M. Lansbury.

BROMLEY BRANCH meets at 53 St. Leonard's St., 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. McCheyne.

POPLAR BRANCH meets at 20 Railway St., 8 p.m., every Tuesday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Drake.

WEST HAM BRANCH meets at 55 Fife Rd., 8 p.m., every Monday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Millo.

EAST HAM BRANCH meets at Essex Hall, Wakefield St., 8 p.m., every Monday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Thompson.

WALTHAMSTOW BRANCH meets at William Morris Hall, 3 p.m., every Thursday. *Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Bush.

Mothers and children should make a point of attending the weekly consultations with nurse and doctor at:—

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway Street, Poplar, Tuesdays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's Street, Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 55 Fife Road, Canning Town, Mondays, 2 to 4 p.m.

The
Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

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AGENTS:

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Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH & SONS and Messrs. WILLING.

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Vol. II. No. 22.—Sat., Aug. 14th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

OUR EQUAL BIRTHRIGHT.

Do you believe that if all the wealthy landowners, merchants and manufacturers, all the great financiers the world over, had been told that their incomes would be cut down to a bare subsistence level if war were declared, and so long as war should last, that they would have agreed to war?

Do you believe that they would have agreed to war, if they had known that they would have to starve and stint as you do?

Do you believe that any Kaiser, Czar, or Emperor, could cause war, alone, without the help of the financiers and the people?

Do you know that the great armament firms are international, that they have directors, who are both British and German, and that they have supplied arms to both sides in the war, and that Great Britain is paying a royalty to Krupps of Germany for every fuse we fire?

Do you not think it is dangerous to give the right to supply armaments to any private firm? If a man sells tea, he tries to make you want to drink it, if he sells guns, he tries to make you shoot.

Do you not want to get behind the armament firms that flourish by our fighting, and the merchants and shippers, who in their desire to open markets, consider the people between them and their trading only as pawns in the game?

Do you remember that when the Russian people were fighting for their freedom against an oppression more terrible than anything we know, the financiers of Great Britain lent money to the Czar and his Ministers to crush them down?

Do you remember that when the British dockers were striking, the German dockers sent money to them to help them to hold out?

Do you not want to get behind the financiers, to the workers of the other nations, in order that you may discover together *why* it is that you should fight, and together solve the differences that arise?

Do you remember that on Christmas Day there was a truce between the English and the German soldiers?

How was it that the men who had been murdering each other for months past were able to want this truce and enjoy it together? It was because they were human beings with minds of the same sort, who had lived the same sort of lives, and Christmas had for them all the self-same memories. The religious ideal of Christmas, as drawing together all mankind in peace and goodwill as children of one family in the sight of God, and the intimate tender home memories with which it was interwoven in all the soldiers' hearts, accomplished a miracle indeed! It enabled them to cast out fear,—the strongest of our masters—fear of the men of the opposing armies concealed in the opposite trenches, fear of the officers beside them, armed with the frequently exercised power of life and death over those who disobey.

What Christmas did in some portions of the opposing lines, a greater catastrophe than war would also do. If God should send a rain of fire from heaven, or if tremendous floods or an earthquake should arise, immediately the opposing troops would cease their fighting, and as poor bewildered human fugitives, would rush to each other for sympathy and aid.

Deep down beyond all race and class distinctions we are human beings, with the same needs and instincts, and this is revealed to us when we are threatened by great catastrophies arising from non-human things.

We are suffering now, both nationally and internationally, from our imperfect social organisations, and the mistakes and difficulties that come from fear or suspicion of each other. It is because the people of the various countries fear each other that they are prevailed upon to fight. It is because they fear to trust to their equal birthright as human beings that they allow evil social conditions to prevail at home.

Those who are afraid to trust to the possibility of there being enough for everyone, in a state of society in which equal opportunities should be given to all, strive to maintain things as they are.

We must rid ourselves of the idea that there are any *real* class distinctions. The only essential differences that there are between us, as human beings, are to be found amongst the individuals in every social class. The class distinctions that we know at present are due to the system of allowing one individual to benefit by the toil of others, and that of putting money out to interest, under which a sum of money is never spent by its owner, but always remains intact, and enables him to exact an unending toll of the things that other people work to produce. The War loan is a striking example of this.

These things are defended on the ground that production must be organised, but the capitalist is not necessarily an organiser, and we must work towards a state of society in which the person who undertakes the, to him, congenial work of organising, shall not be given a larger share of the general benefits produced, than those who are responsible for other forms of labour.

During the war it has been demonstrated very clearly that production organised by competing individuals, each striving for his own private benefit is inefficient in the extreme.

It is because the inefficiency has been very glaring that the Ministry of Munitions has been instituted. Yet still the Government refuses to take the making of munitions out of private hands and even extends the practice, so that such firms as Bryant and Mays, the match makers, are given facilities for becoming munition makers to the Government, and can get a share of the munition profits; although if munitions had been nationalised, war profits would have been saved. It is universally admitted that shippers, coal owners, and those who deal in wheat, meat, and other forms of food, have been making enormous profits out of the war: but the Government refuses to prevent these powerful interests from preying upon the consumers.

There is no doubt that the Government is sacrificing the interests of the people to those of the financiers at the present time. Do you believe that you can trust the Government not to do so, when the terms of peace come to be decided?

Do you consider it is safe at any time to allow the foreign policy of the nation to be hidden from the people?

You will be told that it is useless to try to democratise our British foreign policy, because the foreign policies of the other Powers are autocratic and, therefore, our own regard for the welfare of the peoples of the world could do nothing to prevent wars.

Do not believe that. With certainty believe that there are people in every nation whose faith is built on the brotherhood of mankind and those men and women, though they are unknown to us, are striving even as we strive. Every success of ours makes their fight less difficult. Social reforms initiated in one country spread across the world just as scientific discoveries and the developments in music and painting do.

Before the war, during the war, after the war is done, the old striving for more perfect human development continues and will continue for all time.

As we take our part in the struggle let us determine that we will not want for ourselves more of the world's material goods than the common average for all, but that that common average shall be a high and abundant one for all the people of the world.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

PLAGUE SPOT in the PENSIONS BILL. CUT IT OUT!

The Naval and Military Pensions Bill if passed in its present form will give power to the Statutory Committee, "*to decide whether any pension, grant, or separation allowance to wife, widow, child, or other dependant, has, under the regulations, subject to which it was granted, become forfeited.*"

No right of appeal, no public enquiry is provided for, so that, if the Bill goes through, the soldiers' wives and parents will be left entirely at the mercy of the Statutory Committee and the Local Committees from which it will take its facts.

Soldiers' and sailors' wives and relatives must organise and claim representation on these committees if ever they are formed.

But the Bill must be amended.

Join the League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' wives and relatives. Write to the Hon. Sec. at 103 St. Stephen's Road, Bow, E.

ONE WAY OF ANSWERING QUESTION 9 ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER FORM.

I do not think it right to do Government work unless I have a guarantee that I shall be paid the standard rate of wages hitherto paid for the kind of work that I am asked to undertake, with the addition of any war bonus or increase in wages that may be granted owing to the war, and that if the work is unskilled and the wages hitherto paid for it have been low, I shall not be engaged to do it at a lower wage than 7d. an hour. I consider that women's labour should be safeguarded by the possession of the Parliamentary Vote.

Provided also that I am to be employed directly by the Government and not by a contractor or sub-contractor.

The Press censor is giving the daily papers instructions not to say there is a shortage of munitions, in case the Russian public should be led to think that we are not doing our part in the War.

Mr. Asquith has declined to receive a deputation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, in favour of the admission of women to the higher branches of the Civil Service, but there is a possibility that Mr. Lloyd George may do so.

STRIKES and the MUNITIONS ACT

The Glasgow coppersmiths who went on strike because plumbers were employed on coppersmiths' works by Fairfields—Clyde shipbuilders—again showed the futility of the Munitions Act when put in practice.

Mr. Alexander Turnbull (secretary of the men's society): "If the men won't go back to work, what is the penalty?"

The Chairman: "Five pounds a day while they remain out.

(*Laughter from the strikers.*)

Remember this country is at war. Does that never occur to you?' One of the strikers rose and said: "I think I am as patriotic as any man in this room. I have seven relatives in the trenches, and one at sea. No man dare tell me I am sacrificing their lives by remaining out. I am standing out for the Trade Union cause—a perfectly legitimate proceeding. The whole fault of this lies with the Fairfield management. I can prove that there is work going out of Fairfield to six or seven different shops, and men are standing idle in the shops."

Loud applause greeted this speech.

The men were fined 2s. 6d. and costs, which their Trade Union paid.

Sixteen workmen were charged before the Glasgow Munitions Tribunal with having struck work at Paisley. Ten were fined 5s. or five days' imprisonment, and against six the charges were withdrawn.

Mr. Ben Turner, President, General Union of Textile Workers, says: "The chairmen of the *Yorkshire munitions tribunals are chiefly lawyers*, and *their secretaries chiefly lawyers*, so that on the committee of three there will be a *lawyer as chairman, a manufacturer*, and a *workmen's representative*, and a *lawyer secretary*. It is nearly three to one against the worker to start with."

This is exactly what we have said from the first. When the profits of employers are under consideration the matter is referred to a tribunal which is composed entirely of the employing class, and on which there are no representatives of the working class.

A third general munitions tribunal was held in Glasgow, when 30 "holders on" employed by Messrs. Lobnitz and Co., (Limited), shipbuilders, were charged with taking part in a strike. It was alleged that on Tuesday, July 13th, the "holders on" demanded an increase of 1s. a day. The shipyard manager was absent from the yard on business, and the foreman riveter was not competent to deal with an application of this kind—this sounds like a Government department, Ministers are always "out." As the manager remained ***absent***, and the increase was not conceded, the men left the works at midday on July 31st, and did not resume until the morning of Tuesday, August 3rd. All the men who appeared—28—were found guilty and fined 5s. each, with the alternative of five days' imprisonment. The manager was not fined!

At Wood Green Police Court, recently, a tube-fitter, named W. R. E. Kemp, of Acacia Road, Wood Green, was ordered to pay £5 damages and costs for wrongfully leaving his employment where he was at work on munitions of war. The firm was engaged on contracts for the Admiralty and the War Office.

Because he was a munition worker, Neil McDonald, of Shooters' Hill, was only bound over to keep the peace for assaulting a little girl of 13, whose bicycle he stopped in the road. He offered a man who came to the girl's aid a sovereign to let him go.

The representatives of the National Flint Glass Makers' Union are to meet Sir G. R. Askwith in London, to make efforts to settle the dispute which has arisen in the trade. The men are demanding a 3s. advance, and have handed in notices to cease work. The Towns affected include London, Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Warrington and Stourbridge.

At Jarrow nine workmen were fined £4 each (including damages) for absenting themselves from work on Government contracts at Palmer's Steel Works.

A Trade Union Rights Committee has been formed with the avowed objects of fighting the labour sections of the Munitions Act and of encouraging resistance by trade union workmen in order to maintain all labour rights and customs held by labour before the passing of the Act.

As a result of the tram strike, the men earning 40s. a week or under are, to get a War bonus of 3s. a week, or 6d. a day.

WOMEN IN THE LABOUR MARKET.

Mr. Joseph Hallsworth, Assistant General Secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees, writes:—As regards co-operative service, until very recently, women and girls were employed in retail stores, in such departments as drapery, dressmaking, millinery, clothing, and similar branches, and, except in Scotland, scarcely at all were they employed in grocery departments.

The circumstances of emergency created by the War have, however, altered the position, and in a number of instances women have been introduced into grocery departments at wages less than the men for whom they have been substituted.

One very definite case that I have just come across is where four young women, between 21 and 30 years of age, have been employed as book-keeping clerks, at wages of 18s. a week, and are replacing men who have had years of experience at the work, and received anything from 35s. to 40s. a week. Yet the secretary of the Society, who is the immediate controller of their labour, tells me that their work is worth at present 80 per cent. of the value of that of the men they have replaced, and, presumably, when they have been employed a little longer they will be just as well able to do the work as the men referred to.

Our point has been, in connection with this substitution, that the women should be paid the wages that would be paid if other men were substituted for those who had left. This would not necessarily mean the same wages as the wages paid to the men who have joined the forces, as they may have attained to their rates of pay by long service with annual increments; but since we work, so far as minimum rates are concerned, to a "wage-for-age" scale, the women should be paid the wage according to this scale, so far as it is applicable to men. Otherwise we feel that the women will be used as a lever to force down the standard of employment of the job and untold evil both to men and women will arise from a proceeding of this kind.

We are often told, quite by assumption, that the women who are now taken on in place of men will not be of the same value, at least for a time. That may be true, but employers can hardly expect to secure an abnormal supply of women in war emergency circumstances ready trained for the work immediately. We must take a longer view in this matter and remember that many of the women who are now brought in will remain permanently in the industry. Therefore, we must accustom them from the start to demand the normal rate of man's pay for the job, so that they may not be used as blacklegs against men, when the men are fighting in the economic reactions that will come (in the judgment of many of us), after the war is over. In any case, whatever the women may lack in experience and training in the first instance, will have to be made good by the men working beside them, and the employers ought not to be allowed to make profit at the expense of both the women and the remaining men.

I might say that some trade unionists take the short-sighted view of keeping women out of their organisations, in spite of all the terrible object lessons that such exclusion has to show in the past. My own view is that women should be welcomed into industry on exactly the same terms as men, and that whatever competition there may be between the sexes, should be a competition of ability and not of wages. I believe that the women should be members of the same trade union organisations as the men. Of course, where men rule out women from trade union membership, then the purely women's trade union organisations are perfectly justified in organising them separately from the men.

In our organisation, however, women are eligible equally with men, and I am pleased to say that we have about 9,000 women members of our Union. It is true that, for women, our scale is slightly lower than that for men, but it was fixed in pre-War times, and, so far as we are able to govern it at all, we do not apply it to substitution cases.

In mixed employment in Co-operative Stores before the war, the men and women were largely marked off into two non-competing groups, and the only reason for men receiving higher wages than women was that the latter *placed such a low value upon their services* and also failed to respond as readily or as early as men to invitations to trade union membership.

The serious question arising for solution out of War circumstances, is the practice of substitution of women for men, on a scale never contemplated before. This will, I think, do much to raise for treatment the matter of economic justice as between the sexes and lead more and more to a closer approximation of the rates for both, when doing the same kind of work.

Wishing your demonstration on Sunday next every success,

I am, yours etc.,
JOSEPH HALLSWORTH.

At a conference at Leicester between the Boot aud Shoe Workers' Trade Union and the Manufacturers' Federation, which was presided over by Sir George Askwith, the Board of Trade's Chief Industrial Commissioner, it was decided that if women are employed on work hitherto done by men "*they shall be paid the same rate of wages as are now paid to men for an equivalent quantity of work.*"

This phrase ought to be alright, but we should like to know how it works out and what arrangements are being made to secure a fair judgment of what is "an equivalent quantity."

We are doubtful about the phrase: "that due regard shall be paid to the desirability, where possible, of separate working conditions where male and female operatives are employed in the same department."

We should like to know precisely what the words mean.

In the House of Commons, on July 27th, Mr. Acland stated that the wages of women clerks in Government employment were as follows:—

	Per week.
Typing, duplicating, sorting, and routine work	18s. to 20s.
Ordinary clerical work ...	21s. to 25s.
Shorthand typist duties...	26s.
Higher clerical and supervising work	30s.

Over 600 are in the second category.

The work is said to be strictly temporary, we have always understood that that should be a reason for paying higher wages!

The Railway Clerks' Association shows a good example in the payment of women clerks, who get 35s. a week of 35 hours, and 1s. an hour for overtime.

Girls of 16 on the Great Northern Railway are paid 10s. a week, this wage increases by 2s. and 3s. till at 21 years of age the girls earn 22s. At present a war bonus of 2s. and 3s. is given according to age. We must point out that men clerks get up to £120 a year.

The Prudential pays girls between 18 and 20 years of age from 12s. to 13s. weekly. For these "well-paid" positions, the girls must be of *approved social position*. They are forbidden to join trade unions. Mrs. Handel Booth, wife of the M.P., acts as character censor for them, at a salary of £250 a year!

A girl at the booking-office at Victoria Station is getting 15s. a week. We hear the man whom she displaced got 35s.

On the North-Eastern Railway the maximum wage for women is £66 per annum. Only in very exceptional cases is a higher salary possible.

On the London and South Western Railway girls are paid from 10s. to 28s. in the city, and 10s. to 26s. in the provinces.

At Pentonville Road women volunteers for munition work are obliged to pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d., and work six weeks gratis.

In Poplar at Lusty's, packing-case makers, women get 5d. an hour, where men got 10d. an hour for similar work.

At Wright's, in Bethnal Green, girls get 13s. a week for box-making.

WHY I REFUSE TO SIGN THE REGISTER.

I intend to refuse to fill up the National Register form because I believe that the Register has been initiated solely for the purpose of exploiting the workers, and will be used for that object.

I believe that the War is being used by powerful and wealthy sections of the community to enrich themselves at the expense of the majority of the people. This is not only bad for the nation as a whole, but provides a dangerous incentive to private persons to use their influence to prolong the war, and I base my conclusions on the following amongst other facts, of which there is abundant proof.

(1) Instead of the munitions being manufactured directly by the State, in order that war profits may be saved, munition making is passing more and more into the hands of private firms. Even such firms as Bryant and Mays, the match makers, are having a share.

(2) When the Munitions Act was passed, the Government promised that if the workers would give up their Trade Union conditions and the right to strike, and to go freely from one place of employment to another, the employers would not be allowed to make greater profits than before the War. This promise has been broken.

(3) Women are being employed at miserably low wages to do work hitherto done by men at a comparatively good wage. Children are being brought in at starvation rates to do the work of adults.

(4) In work that has always been done by women, women are being employed by Army contractors at sweated rates, though the contractors are making great profits. The Government refuses to prevent this.

(5) Extra War profits are being made out of food, coal, and other necessaries, and on the carrying of necessaries from overseas to this country. The Government refuses to control prices or to limit the profits that private individuals are making; yet the workers are steadily being deprived of the power to force up their wages to meet the higher cost of living.

(6) The Government and the Local Authorities are curtailing expenditure on education, housing, and public health, and essential things, such as public baths and wash-houses, are being shut down. Yet unnecessary waste in Government departments continues, and not one single official salary or pension has been reduced, though many are unnecessarily huge.

(7) An Economy Committee has been formed, on which a large representation is given to such people as Lord Midleton and others, who advocate the abolition of Old Age Pensions and the Taxation of Food and Wages. At the same time, generous interest is being paid to those who have more money than they actually need, and thus are able to spare some of it to invest in War Loan. To these people, for every £100 invested the nation will have to pay back £235 in 30 years. The workers will have to produce a greater proportion beyond what they consume to make that possible.

If a limit of income were set up for all, Lords and commoners alike, of, say £500 a year for a household, or £2 a week for an adult, and £1 a week for a child, or any reasonable standard beyond which all income would be confiscated by the State, then, and not till then, we should see all classes sharing, with some semblance of equality, the burdens of the war. (Of course, if absolute justice were our aim, we should need to level up some of the lower incomes at the same time). No one who is "*Patriotic*" should shirk from such a limitation of income which would entail no actual physical hardships. Persons whose incomes had been limited would still live far more comfortably than the vast majority do to-day, and their allowances would be very much greater than those of the soldiers' and sailors' wives.

Let the powerful persons who are conducting the War and running the country show us the mettle of their enthusiasm, by being prepared to live like the majority, on simple necessaries. Let them be prepared to *give* their superfluous incomes for national use, and neither hoard them up for their own future benefit, nor lend them out at heavy interest. Let them remember that to shield the wealthy few at the expense of the majority, is dangerous to the well-being of the nation.

I believe that we shall not end wars until we prevent individuals from making money out of them. We cannot prevent this all over the world as yet, but we can make a beginning in our own country.

I object to filling up the National Register because I am a voteless woman, and I see that the fact that women are politically helpless is being taken advantage of by those who are in power.

I also object to signing the Register, because I believe it to be the first step towards conscription, and I believe that conscientious objections to military service should be respected. They are not on the same footing as refusals to contribute superfluous wealth to the necessities of the State.

Many who are agreeing to sign the Register, do so on the ground that they can make what protest they please upon the form, but when they fill up the paper they supply the Government with the information it needs for applying coercion when it chooses to do so.

I refuse to fill up the register, because I cannot agree to give any aid to a procedure which I consider wrong. E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

A MESSAGE for the QUEEN'S HALL Meeting.

The Government has called on women as well as men to perform national services. We cannot, alas, hope to see our young women marching to their work with the bronzed faces, the upright bearing, the swinging gait, betokening the "fitness" of our young men—a fitness due to the good food and open-air life they have never had before. But we may at least demand from Government, that in the interests of the nation, the physique of the future mothers of the race should not be undermined by insufficient food and rest. And in demanding decent hours and wages and the principle of equal pay for equal work, we are demanding that the standard of life for men and women must be maintained as well as it can be in the present break-down of civilisation.

Let us protest, too, against thrift being preached to the workers, while great ladies take pledges to "do without luxuries as far as possible," and rich men are tempted to be "patriotic" by buying war loan vouchers with expensive dinners—a chance which is 'patriotically' advertised in a well-known evening paper.

Wishing you every success in your efforts to protect the workers, and to urge that taxation should be placed on wealth,

MARGARET LLEWELYN DAVIES.

The *Times* reports that the Vienna municipality has expended over £3,000,000 during the year, in purchasing food, chiefly flour, sugar, coffee, potatoes and also coal, petroleum and fodder, reselling it to the public at cost price.

Eight hundred acres of land within the city are now used for growing vegetables.

A decree, just issued, gives country districts and provinces the power to commandeer necessary articles of food, and owners will be compelled to accept fair prices for such goods.

We imitate the enemy only when their methods fall in with the views of those in power. To follow such an example as Vienna gives, would help the workers and needy. When will their views be listened to?

Mr. J. A. R. Marriott remarked in the *Fortnightly* that "an increase in wages is not necessarily a benefit to the community. In so far as wages are below the rate necessary for the maintenance of labour—including the future labour of the children, and even of the unborn—at the highest possible pitch of economic efficiency, an increase in wages is all to the good."

This is all we demand at present; but when are we going to get it?

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

Excellent meetings held throughout the week in our open-air campaign, and a good sale of *Dreadnoughts*. Our thanks to all who helped by speaking, paper selling and bill distributing, also those who took part in poster parades. Remember, there is to be another parade on Saturday the 14th, in the West End, starting from the International Suffrage Shop, 5 Duke Street, Adelphi, at 3.30. Those who go from Bow, meet at 400 Old Ford Road at 2.15. Helpers are much wanted in this way.

Let us make the Bow contingent, on Sunday, the biggest! Form up at 400 Old Ford Road at 2, and start at 3 sharp.

Dreadnought sales, week ending Aug. 14th—762. Miss O'Brien 174, Miss Marks (two weeks) 207, Miss Watts (two weeks) 149, Miss Bertram 38, Mrs. Crabb 24, Mrs. Payne 20, Mrs. Farrall 20, Special Meetings 90.

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
Organiser: MRS. DRAKE.

We have been having excellent open-air meetings in Poplar to explain the object of the Demonstration on Registration Sunday, and all those willing to assist are asked to be at the Dock Gates at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 15th, or at 2 o'clock at 20 Railway St.

This branch is collecting towards a *Dreadnought* poster, to be shown at Aldwych Tube station. We have received 7s. 6d. up to the present, and promises of more. The price of the poster is 35s.; let us see how soon we can complete this amount!

On Bank Holiday Monday some of our members went paper selling in Epping Forest, our thanks to them.

Miss H. Watts was elected at the last branch meeting, to represent this branch on the E.L.F.S. Central Committee, with Mrs. Cressall; Miss Rutter having resigned, as she was really too busy to attend the meetings. Now members, *do try* to turn up more regularly to the branch meetings, and help us with collecting the monthly subscriptions. We were paying 14s., and this has dropped to 13s. monthly. Please help me to work it up again. Miss Lagsding is thanked very much for collecting for babies' milk, Miss Morley for paper selling and poster parading, and Mrs. West for distributing. Another reminder—Don't forget to bring *all* your friends to help with the demonstration. It must be a success!

Dreadnoughts sold, two weeks ending Aug. 8th—585. Distributed—500. Miss T. Barker and Miss P. Lagsding 51, at the Dock Gates 60, Miss Bertram 24, Miss Bennett 16, Miss J. Watts 40, Miss K. Lagsding and Mrs. Bird 100, Mrs. Schlette 62. Collected—Miss E. Lagsding 12s. 6d., Mrs. Drake 9s. 7½d., Mrs. Bird 9s., Nurse Connolly 2s. 6d. towards poster.

BROMLEY.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. MANTLE,
53 St. Leonard Street.

Good meeting was held at 53 St. Leonards Street last Thursday night, when all were glad to hear Miss Pankhurst, we hope to have a much better meeting next time.

Bromley members must make a special effort to start with the procession at 400 Old Ford Road next Sunday (15th) at 2, start 3 sharp. All do your best to make it a success.

The Bromley League of Rights members are arranging an outing by brake to Harlow, about the first week in September, full particulars next week. *Dreadnoughts* sold—49.

HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 DALSTON LANE
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).
Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.

Mrs. Schlette was our speaker last Thursday evening. Her experiences of life are always most interesting. Will every member who is not on holiday, make a special effort to attend our weekly meetings, as we do not want our work to suffer, and we have an extra lot to do to make up for those who are away?

Many thanks to Miss Sands for taking the chair and supporting the speaker last Friday evening. A splendid crowd gathered, and several women congratulated us afterwards on the stand we are taking.

Next Sunday we expect to see every Hackney member at 400 Old Ford Road, at 2 p.m. We want banner bearers, paper sellers and collectors. Come along and do your share! Subscriptions for August are now due, and some members have not paid the July subscriptions yet. Please pay up as soon as possible.

We want more regular paper sellers in Hackney. Please give in your names even if you have only half an hour to spare.

Papers sold 281. Distributed 50. Miss Sands 42, Miss Fix 46, Miss Bennett 52.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

55 Fife Road, Tidal Basin.
Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Monday being Bank holiday, "Peacock" meeting was held on Tuesday. All members are thanked for billing and distributing *Dreadnoughts*. We have disposed of about 1,000 this week. On Thursday the 'National Register' was discussed by Mrs. Bouvier and all friends are asked to come to 124 Barking Road, on Thursdays at 8, to know more about it. We have made several new members this last month, and hope to see them more regularly. On Friday a good Beckton Road meeting and 18 papers were sold. Saturday's "Whitehouse" meeting abandoned as the Blind Folks band was there.

To the Editor of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Madam,

1. About five years ago a Departmental Committee of the Local Government Board issued a Draft Poor Law Order calculated to cut down out-relief largely. There was agitation throughout the country, and the Draft was greatly amended and rendered comparatively harmless.

2. In 1913 the same Committee issued a Draft Order for the governing of Poor Law Institutions. This was severely criticised in the *New Statesman* by the Bishop of Birmingham and Mrs. Sidney Webb. I will mention two of the objectionable features of the Draft to which they called attention:— (1) "It deprives a mother of a large portion of the rights which she enjoys at present to see her children in the Workhouse." (2) "A pregnant woman, who at present is exempt from punishment, unless with consent of the Medical Officer, is only to have that protection if her pregnancy is advanced." These are only samples of a large number of crude and harsh provisions which the draft contained. Here again, after publicity and agitation, the most objectionable features were removed.

3. Unhappily this ill-starred Committee, including a large proportion of members who took part in the production of these wretched Drafts, is now engaged in "revising" the Orders relating to Relieving Officers and Workhouse Officials. A few days ago the President of the Local Government Board, in reply to a question, would not promise that before he sanctions the proposed Order, Parliament should have an opportunity of considering it. But worst of all, he made no reply to Mr. Anderson's request, "Will he refuse sanction to any proposed Order which takes away or diminishes the responsibilities and liabilities of relieving officers for the relief of the poor, especially in regard to such as are in a condition of sudden or urgent necessity." It is *these* responsibilities which stand between the poor and starvation; and one would have hoped that Mr. Long would have repudiated with indignation the idea that he would tamper with them. But it was not so.

5. May I suggest that the Women's Associations should publicly approach Mr. Long and Mr. Asquith, and ask that no Poor-Law General Order be made, and the work of the Departmental Committee suspended, during the War. The Committee can, and is likely to do, a good deal of mischief. Women may suggest modifications of the present orders which may be of real service in mitigating the evils in connection with Poor-Law which specially affect women.

Yours etc.,
J. THEODORE DODD,
Barrister-at-Law.

The Town Clerk of Holborn says:—"We have stopped capital expenditure of all kinds, including the building of houses for the working classes. Only the most necessary services are being kept going. It has been suggested that the baths and wash-houses and one of the public libraries in the borough should be closed during the war, and the matter is to be discussed at the next meeting of the Council."

Other Borough Councils are likewise going through the list of their services with a view to dropping the *luxuries* and continuing only the necessaries.

As usual economy in the wrong direction. Bad housing is mostly to blame for the number of physically unfit in our midst. Sanitary housing and baths are *not* "luxuries" in a civilised country; neglect of them lead to disease and increased mortality!

People should remember that in most working class districts there are no baths in the houses, and many of the women cannot wash the clothes properly unless they go to the public wash-houses.

CHILDREN AS BLACKLEGS.

The men in the Black Country glass trade are demanding a war bonus of 3s. a week, and some of them have handed in their notices.

Only the other day the employers in the trade succeeded in getting permission from the Home Office to employ boys of between 13 and 14 at night until the end of the war.

These children will be used to break down the efforts of their elders to secure the advances in wages which are so seriously needed because of the high cost of living.

The same thing appears to be happening in the cotton trade where the workers are asking for a 5 per cent. increase in wages to partially meet the increased cost of living.

Employers refuse this on the ground that trade is "*worse*" than it was when they refused a similar application a few months ago.

Yet Lloyd George is appealing to cotton operatives to agree to be placed under the Munitions Act, because of the tremendous amount of cotton goods that the Government is requiring for the Army, and we know that the War Office never buys anything on the cheap!

Even in normal times there are nearly twice as many women as men in the the cotton factories, so that we should not expect to find any shortage of labour there that cannot be replaced. Yet the cotton manufacturers are asking that children shall be employed on half time at eleven years, instead of at twelve, and full timers at twelve instead of at thirteen.

It is obvious that cheap workers are wanted, and little children are made to suffer.

No one who has not been into a cotton mill can conceive what it means to a young child to work there for long hours in the great heat and noise.

The roar of the machinery is deafening. In the spinning rooms fresh outer air is not allowed, as it is said to make the strands of cotton break more often than they otherwise would. In the weaving sheds, for the sake of the cotton, excessive quantities of steam are often pumped into the room.

BRITISH ALIENS.

Mary Ann Graffunder, 34, the English-born wife of a German, was bound over at North London yesterday on a charge of attempting suicide with coal gas. It was stated that she had become low-spirited, because of her husband's internment, and had an idea that relatives sneered at her as the wife of a German.

This poor woman has chosen a more desperate means of calling attention to her position than that of window breaking. Will it be equally successful?

When will the law which penalises these unfortunate British-born women be changed?

Jessie Klose, the English wife of a German, has been released after serving 14 days of her sentence of 21 days for breaking a window in order to draw the attention of the public to her case. Her alien's registration certificate has not been returned to her, and she is hoping that she has seen the last of it. "There are heaps of places where I can get work," she said "now that I have got rid of the wretched thing."

Since it is possible to oppose the law, and get redress by window-breaking, would it not be simpler to issue an order annulling this senseless law entirely?

Mr. Morgan of the Parliamentary War Savings Committee, says: "Every individual must realise that the War is going to cost him or her personally something." Then he asks people to lend money to the State, and says that "generous interest" will be paid!

All members of the E.L.F.S. will sympathise with Miss O'Brien and her family in the loss of her sister Eva, who died on Sunday, August 1st.

106 Cadogan Terrace,
Victoria Park.

Mrs. and Mr. O'Brien and family wish to thank all those who have so kindly sympathised with them in their sad bereavement of their beloved daughter Eva.

WHAT THE NATIONAL REGISTER MEANS?

The *Times* states that after the register forms have been collected, "The next step will be to pick out the forms for men of military age." The Registrar-General has issued the following instructions to local authorities:—

"As the forms for males are coded, those of them which refer to men between the ages of 18 and 41 should be copied on the special pink forms supplied for the purpose. When this work has been completed, these forms should be reserved for the use of the officer commanding the regimental depot of the district in which the area of the local registration authority is situated. Further instructions in regard to them will be issued later, and meanwhile they should be retained by the authority."

At the Guildhall, on July 9th, Lord Kitchener said:—

"When this registration is completed we shall anyhow be able to note the men between the ages of 19 and 40 not required for munition or other necessary industrial work, and therefore available, if physically fit, for the fighting line. Steps will be taken to approach, with a view to enlistment, all possible candidates for the Army—unmarried men to be preferred before married men, as far as may be."

Does anyone want further proof of the Register Act being conscription in disguise? With the aid of the women volunteers, military and industrial conscriptionists will easily gain their ends. We, therefore, ask people to think again before signing their register forms.

Those who refuse to register themselves under the National Register Act are liable to a fine of £5 for the first offence, and £1 a day thereafter.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Mrs. Edward Hecht 1.0.0, Miss Hudson 10.0, Miss E. Gore-Brown 7.0, Mrs. Cordiner 5.0, Mrs. Rebecca Johnson 5.0, Mrs. Patterson 3.0, Anon (sale of flowers) 2.10, Miss Mabel Ligertwood 2.0, Anon per Miss M. Sugden 2.0.

TOWARDS DEMONSTRATION EXPENSES.—Miss Mackenzie 10.0, The Misses Brown 7.6, Mrs. Gulland 5.0, Miss H. M. Poole 5.0.

DREADNOUGHT FUND.—W. A. Willox, Esq. 10.0, per Mrs. Drake 5.0, C. Warlow 2.6, Miss K. A. Raleigh 1.0.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Toolroom, etc.—London Small Arms 2.7.5½, Mrs. Maitland 2.2.0, Mrs. J. Pitman 2.0.6, Miss K. A. Raleigh 2.0.0, Mrs. Baillie Weaver (monthly) 2.0.0, Mrs. E. M. Gawler 2.0.0, Miss M. Macfarland 1.10.0, Miss J. C. Miller (10.0 monthly) 1.0.0, Misses Mann 1.0.0, Miss G. E. Lyle Smyth 1.0.0, Miss E. Dawson 1.0.0, Miss I. V. Yeoman (10.0 weekly) 1.0.0, Misses Gliksten 1.0.0, Mrs. F. J. Tollemache 1.0.0, Mrs. Crabb (collected) 16.0½, Collected at Creche 14.5½, Miss Lagsding (collected) 12.6, per Mrs. Garner 11.0, Mrs. Baker 10.0, Miss H. N. Mack 10.0, Professor Weiss per Mrs. Merrick 10.0, Mrs. F. Skelton 10.0, Mrs. Richmond (5.0 weekly) 10.0, Mrs. Durrant (monthly) 10.0, Miss H. E. Raisin (monthly) 10.0, Miss M. Brock 10.0, Miss O. L. Cobb 10.0, Mrs. Bird (collected) 9.0, Miss E. V. Bullock 6.0, Miss H. J. Pole 5.0, Miss L. Hilyer 5.0, Mrs. Epsom (monthly) 5.0, Mrs. Barrowman 5.0, Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds 5.0, Miss O. Lockhart 5.0, Mrs. J. J. Green 5.0, Mrs. Simpson (2.6 weekly) 5.0, Mrs. Foechert (collected) 4.2½, Mrs. Gore-Browne (monthly) 4.0, Miss Osmond (2.0 weekly) 4.0, Ruby Crabb collected 3.9, Lizzie Bertram collected 3.8, West Adams 3.6, Bromley milk collection 3.0, Miss Aldis 2.6, D. Wilkie, Esq. (monthly) 2.6, Anon per Mrs. Sneddon 2.0, Miss G. Setchfield 2.0, Mrs. S. A. Swift 2.0, Miss G. Swift 2.0, Miss I. Jones (weekly) 2.0, Miss M. Haynes, Mrs. King per Mrs. Page 2.0, per Miss J. Barrowman 1.6, per Miss E. M. Brett 1.0.

SACK OF FLOUR.—per Miss Mackenzie.

JAM.—Miss George.

CLOTHING, ETC.—C.G.L., Mrs. E. Sanders, Anon, Miss H. Spicer, Mrs. Hunt, Miss E. E. Wright, Mrs. Leo Myers, Anon, Mrs. B. Butler, Mrs. Theodore Williams, Mrs. Lester, Mrs. Kemp, Anon, Miss M. Burnistiel, Mrs. Yonge.

We are very glad to announce that the Joint R.S.P.U. and Bow E.L.F.S. Babies' Milk Fund Social made a profit amounting to £5 11s. 9d. Many thanks from the Treasurer!

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the arble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

The calls on our four mother and baby centres, for milk, eggs, medicines, and doctoring and nursing care, will become more frequent and more urgent as the summer advances. Will you help by sending us some money for this work?

Will you send us new laid eggs, arrowroot, barley, glaxo or virol?

Will you send us a maternity outfit?

We want:—For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

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